

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 /015 W
----- 125350

R 241441Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9124
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: TBIO SWEL UR US
SUBJECT: RETINITUS PIGMENTOSA; TREATMENT IN USSR FOR CASALE
SENATOR WEICKER INTEREST

REF: (A) STATE 231728, (B) MOSCOW 14555

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. THE EMBASSY SEPTEMBER 21 RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE (BEING
POUCHED TO EUR/SOV/EXCHANGES UNDER REGISTRY NUMBER 3223138 FROM THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CONCERNING TREATMENT FOR CASALE (SEE
REFTEL B).

2. QUOTE. IN RESPONSE TO YOUR INQUIRY TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH
CONCERNING POSSIBILITY OF RENDERING ASSISTANCE IN TREATMENT OF MR.
F. CASALE WE WERE INFORMED THE FOLLOWING.

3. ACCORDING TO THE DECISION OF THE HELMHOLTZ INSTITUTE OF EYE
DIESEASES OF THE RSFSR MINISTRY OF HEALTH, THE PATIENT MAY BE GIVEN A
CONSULTATION AND IF INDICATED, HOSPITAL TREATMENT WITH THE AIM TO
STOP THE PROCESS PROGRESSING (BLINDNESS).

4. THE USSR MINISTRY OF HEALTH DOES NOT OBJECT TO GIVING THE
PATIENT A CONSULTATION AND IF INDICATED, HOSPITAL TREATMENT AT THE
INSTITUTE FREE OF CHARGE IN MARCH 1977.

5. NO EXPENSES CONNECTED WITH TRANSPORTATION OF THE PATIENTS TO THE
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USSR, MEETING, HOTEL ACCOMMODATION, INTERPRETER SERVICE OR OTHER

EXPENSES CAN BE BORNE BY TQE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

6. ON ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW THE PATIENT SHOULD APPLY FOR A PERMIT FOR TREATMENT TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS: RAKHMANOVSKIY PER. 3, ROOM 528, TELEPHONE 225-2678. END QUOTE.

7. SCIOFF SEPTEMBER 21 ASKED MALYSHEV OF MOH FOR ANSWER TO SENATOR WEICKER'S QUESTION CONCERNING DELAY IN TREATMENT FOR CASALE (REFTEL A). SEPTEMBER 22 MALYSHEV REPLIED THAT THE REASON FOR THE DELAY UNTIL MARCH 1977 WAS THAT "UNTIL THIS TIME, THERE ARE SOME DIFFICULTIES WITH OBTAINING SPECIAL DRUGS FOR THE CURE."

8. WHEN PRESSED FOR FURTHER DETAILS, MALYSHEV SAID THAT THE SCARCITY OF THE SPECIAL "DRUGS" WAS THE ONLY REASON FOR THE DELAY. SCIOFF REPEATED SENATOR WEICKER'S APPEAL FOR HASTE DUE TO DETERIORATING CONDITION OF CASALE. MALYSHEV SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE URGENCY AND HAD INFORMED HIS SUPERIORS OF SENATOR WEICKER'S CONCERN. END UNCLASSIFIED

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9. COMMENT. THERE HAS BEEN SOME DOUBT HEARD RECENTLY FROM OTHER EMBASSIES IN MOSCOW ABOUT THE EFFICACY OF THE SOVIET TREATMENT FOR RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA. DHEW HAS REQUESTED INFORMATION FROM THE USSR MINISTRY OF HEALTH ABOUT THE TREATMENT AT THE HELMHOLTZ INSTITUTE. THE CASALES MIGHT WISH TO CHECK WITH THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH AT DHEW FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SOVIET TREATMENT BEFORE MAKING ANY FINAL DECISIONS ABOUT ACCEPTING THE SOVIET OFFER QUOTED ABOVE. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEDICAL CARE, HEALTH
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW15102
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760363-0286
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760923/aaaaatl.tl
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 231728, 76 MOSCOW 14555
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RETINITUS PIGMENTOSA: TREATMENT IN USSR FOR CASALE SENATOR WEICKER INTEREST
TAGS: TBIO, SWEL, UR, US, (CASALE, FRANCIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006